

## Nursing Facility COVID-19 Visitation Guidelines

*Updated April 8, 2020*

Current Guidelines: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services [QSO-20-14-NH](#), issued March 13, 2020, summarized.

- Facilities should restrict visitation of all visitors and non-essential health care personnel except for certain compassionate care situations.
- Decisions about visitors entering under compassionate care situations will be made on a case-by-case basis. Visitors should be screened, and facilities should require appropriate hand hygiene and personal protective equipment (PPE) be worn.
- Facilities should follow Center for Disease Control and Preventions [\(CDC\) guidelines](#) for restricting access to health care workers.
- Residential Care Services will constantly evaluate surveyors to ensure they do not pose transmission risk.
- Additional guidance can also be found on communal dining, screening of residents and staff, identification of staff who work at multiple facilities, communication with family members, resident access to the Ombuds program, and other information.
- Nursing homes should continue to admit any individuals that they would normally admit to their facility, including individuals from hospitals where a case of COVID-19 was/is present.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services [Long-Term Care Facility Guidance](#), issued April 2, 2020, summarized.

- All visitors to long-term care facilities must be asked about COVID-19 symptoms and must also have their temperatures checked.

Governor Inslee's Proclamation 20-16 institutes wide prohibitions on visitors to long-term care facilities.

- Exceptions may include:
  - End-of-life situations
  - Visits by attorneys and other representatives of the resident
  - Health care professionals fulfilling resident care and service needs
  - Certain government health agency staff
- Excepted visitors to long-term-care facilities should expect:
  - Screening for signs and symptoms of COVID-19
  - Check for identification and entry into a detailed visitor log
  - Evidence of any sign or symptom of COVID-19 will prevent access to the facility including fever, cough or difficulty breathing